

Pyongyang, Korea

January 10, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Jamie:

Just a few lines to accompany the photos and broadcasts which I have been putting into this envelope for you.

We have been hoping to hear about your plans for Christmas vacation - waiting to know where to locate you when we were enjoying our Christmas. Now I hope we shall hear soon as to how you spent your Christmas.

We are having a very mild winter so far and as Korean New Year comes early - 24 January this year - we are likely to have an early spring. This is well as there are so very many poor who are without fuel this winter. The magpies have begun building a new nest in the oak. We are having special meetings in College & Academy for the deepening of Spiritual life of the students. We are hoping much from it.

We have just finished reading "The High Way" by Caroline Atwater Mason. Charles enjoyed it greatly. I want you to read it. She is, I think, a relative of the Hulls. A good book for college students to read. What are you doing to make your influence tell for strengthening the faith of your fellow students? Wish you would write me about such activities in school. Are you in the Y.M.C.A. as well as in the Volunteer band? It would be a great satisfaction to hear from you more frequently.

With love from us all

Lovingly,

Father

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyeng Yang, Korea

January 23, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

James M. Moffett
228 E. Bowman St.
Wooster, Ohio, U.S.A.

(Postcard written to his son, James M. Moffett)

Calendar received just in time for [my] birthday which we celebrate tomorrow [his birthday was actually January 25th]. Looking eagerly for a letter. Where are you? Still at 228 Bowman? What are you doing? What about coming out here after graduation? If you think of it - we must plan now - for the P.Y.F.S. [Pyeng Yang Foreign School] makes engagements ahead of time. If we apply soon - think we can get it.

Father

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel A. Moffett papers)

Santa Barbara, California

January 29, 1925

Susann Waugh Moffett Moffat
824 Munro ? Road
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Jimmy, [written to James McKee Moffett]

Your Xmas box with the lovely Korean gifts should have been acknowledged long since for we did so appreciate it. I think Elizabeth [her brother Howard's daughter] wrote you but Lenore's [her daughter] month at home was one whirl of parties, polo games, luncheons and movies with no time for writing, so I am going to send her thanks as well as my own. She was in the infirmary for more than a week after she went back to school and was just about to ask for a leave of absence and come home until she felt better when she discovered that her vaccination was taking which accounted for her temperature continuing after she had quite recovered from the severe cold which had sent her to the infirmary.

I had a good and most welcome letter from your Father [Samuel Austin Moffett, her brother] lately. If you haven't written very lately, do write him a long letter at once. He says you write splendid letters when you do write but he so wishes you would write oftener. You may be quite sure of one thing, Jamie, that the separation is infinitely harder for your father than it is for you.

We did so wish for you at Xmas time. We talked of you. We asked Bill Colgate and Lonie for the Christmas holidays but they were too far away to afford the trip - Bill's letters to Lenore were positively pathetic for he hates his job and the climate. I am more than ever in love with Santa Barbara and it is quite likely that I shall not return with Uncle Howdy [her brother, Howard]. I am looking for a lot in the Riviera with the purpose of building a house for Will [her son] and Lenore [her daughter] and me, for they like Santa Barbara as much as I do. I am so happy in church work again. I have the Women's Bible class and am once more active in the Missionary Society and other societies of the church and I feel happy and normal for the first time since Dr. Moffat [her husband] died. Uncle Howdy says to let him know a week ahead whenever you need money to allow for the time it takes for your letters to reach one another. Here's hoping you got thru exams all right. Study the first of the term so you won't have to worry.

With love,

Aunt Susie

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Seoul, Korea

January 30, 1925

Samuel Austin Moffett

Dear J[amie]:

This should reach you in time for a birthday greeting. Am in Seoul for one day to see Government Educational officials. Incidentally, will take in a couple of basketball games at Y.M.C.A. tonight before my train leaves.

Bought a steamer rug for Charles for his trip to America next summer. I must hear from you in advance as to your plans for summer for if possible you must be with Charles for a while before he enters Mercersberg Academy - and go with him there.

Love from us all -

Father

Save the stamp.

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

EMPIRE DAY HONORS

Kigensetsu has developed into one of the most important and interesting days of all the year in Chosen during the past few years. It was originally a day set apart in Japan for national rejoicing and celebration to commemorate the accession of Emperor Jimmu, the August Founder of the Empire. Today is the anniversary of that most happy historical event. It carries back the minds of all Japanese to the hazy antiquity of twenty-six centuries ago, and fires their imagination concerning the glorious achievement of the founder of the Empire whose direct descendant they actually have as their reigning sovereign.

This memorable day has been chosen by Baron Saito, Governor-General, to reward those who have distinguished themselves by rendering exemplary services in the line of education. The Rules providing for it were promulgated in 1922, and today will witness the third distribution of awards throughout the country. People so to be honoured this time will be twenty in number, gentlemen who have devoted many of their precious years to the promotion of education either as school teachers, founders of private schools or by connecting themselves with educational institutions in other capacities. Of this number thirteen are Japanese, five Koreans and two Americans. The Rev. Dr. John Z. Moore of the Methodist Mission North, and the Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Moffett of the Presbyterian Mission North, both resident at Pyongyang, are the two Americans referred to, and we should heartily congratulate all the Government authorities concerned upon their having recommended to the Governor-General for this distinction these two foreigners whose names are now almost household words among a great many inhabitants of the peninsula. Having arrived as a missionary in 1903 Dr. Moore is stated to be the founder of fifteen private schools, and Dr. Moffett who crossed to the Hermit Kingdom still earlier, to be more precise in 1889 [reached Korea in 1890], can claim to be the founder of some sixty schools. These figures alone, we believe, will speak volumes of the valuable contribution they have made to the uplift of young Koreans besides propagating the gospel of Christ among tens of thousands of the young and aged. A brief official account supplied us for publication seems to indicate that all the recipients of Empire Day Honours - if so we may appropriately term the awards - fully deserve that reward, but evidently none more so than these two venerable American gentlemen.

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyongyang, Korea

February 28, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Jamie:

This has been a sad day to me and I do not know how to write you. The boys have talked of Jamie's birthday and every mention of it has cut like a knife, for all I have is no news - no news - no letter - hardly a line of any kind for over four months and I keep wondering & wondering what has happened - what has gone wrong - why it is you do not write anything - whether you are sick, whether you have failed, or whether it is pure laziness or indifference or what. I simply have no explanation for it - and nothing upon which to hazard a guess. What can I do, my boy? My heart is heavy and I am hungry for some news of some kind but each mail comes and all ask eagerly - "anything from Jamie?" and my heart sinks as I find nothing.

It is a greater cruelty than I thought you capable of. I have tried hard to keep from giving up to feelings of sorrow and disappointment - am hoping that a change would come and you would realize what it means and repent of such unfilial conduct and indifference but I have given up and this has been a day of sadness and disappointment.

Charles has been quite sick with flu for three days and I have been caring for him. He is some better now and I think will not be seriously sick. Tommie is over his cold and growing nicely - crowing and beginning to form words - "good" and "Mamma" are his first ones. He has two teeth - trying to get more and wants to stand. He is a great little treasure. He is getting his last feeding for today - now after 10 at night and we will soon all be in bed.

I may add to this tomorrow but good night now -

Yours in much love even though in sadness,

Father

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

EARLY DAYS IN PYENGYANG

Samuel A. Moffett

Having met Dr. and Mrs. Underwood in Yokohama and Dr. and Mrs. Allen in Nagasaki, and arriving in Chemulpo January 25, 1890, Miss Doty (now Mrs. F.S. Miller) and I found the whole Presbyterian Mission, except Mrs. Heron, had come from Seoul to meet us. Dr. Heron, Mr. Gifford and Miss Hayden were there and our cavalcade of ponies and chairs started overland for Seoul, which we reached after dark. Dr. Heron's faithful "soldier" had prevailed upon the keeper of the West Gate to keep it open wide enough to let us through although the curfew bell had already rung.

Additional honors were immediately thrust upon me and within a month I was Chairman of the Mission, head of an Orphanage, - the only boys' school in the Mission, - and was assigned all of Korea north of Seoul as my parish.

After six months of language study I proceeded to explore my parish and left Seoul in August with Mr. Appenzeller and Professor [Homer] Hulburt for Pyongyang. We went on horses taking six days for the trip. At Whangju I thought we should be drowned as we crossed the raging torrent of that little creek, swollen by the floods to a great river, and landed at the gate way up on the hillside back of the city. Arriving at Pyongyang at dusk, my first night was spent in a room at the magistracy where the innumerable yamen runners showed interest in everything that pertained to these three strangers, guests from the western world.

The next day we found our own lodgings, moving to an inn kept by Kim Sun Tal, not far from the governor's yamen. Good meals were served, but what surroundings!! Dirt and filth, donkeys, chickens, ducks and pigs! Dishwater, etc., from the kitchen were thrown into the courtyard, upon which the door and window of my little room opened. The room, dark, dingy and smoky, allowed me to stand upright in the center only, the sides being about three feet high. Mr. Appenzeller left after two days for a long northern trip and Mr. Hulburt left soon after, having failed to get five hundred tons of coal for the foreign community in Seoul, for which he had come.

I spent fifteen days in this inn with no one who knew a word of English. My Korean improved and I soon knew pretty well the meaning of "Kee Keudera" (how tall he is!) and "Sack gummun nōm" (Black devil) [색검은놈]. I tried to interest the many visitors who came out of curiosity by placing before them the Chinese New Testament and asking them to read certain passages, while my teacher, a Seoul scholar, rather reluctantly explained a little of the book and why I had come to Korea. Good old Yee Syobang gained more courage later on and took some delight in explaining the Gospel but on this first trip he was a rather timid witness.

Nevertheless soon seed was sown and at least one man became interested, obtained a New Testament and spread some knowledge of the truth in the western villages where afterwards I had the privilege of establishing a church in which this man's brother became an ordained elder.

It was on this trip, as well as subsequently, that the boys, more in mischief than for meanness, threw stones at me as I went up the hill where now is the Central Presbyterian Church and the boys' grammar school. After fifteen days in the city I engaged a down-river boat to take me, my teacher and boy and the baggage down the river and around the coast to Sorai Beach near which is the village of Syong Chon, where a few Christians and my teacher's elder brother lived.

We reached the estuary and I shall never forget the night we spent tossing on the waves, the water rising in the leaky boat, the men bailing out and talking excitedly in Korean beyond my understanding, while I tried to sleep on my bedding down in the little hole underneath the deck. I woke every half hour to feel below my bedding to see how high the water was rising in the hold and long before morning all of us were ready to give up any desire to put to sea in that boat. I think I started the "sai pyuk keui to hoi (sunrise prayer meeting) in Korea and was thankful indeed there was light enough to enable me to get ashore on the boatman's back across the wide mud-banks and on to *terra firma* in Anak County, Whanghai Province. Securing ponies, we made Syong Chon overland and I had my first view of Sorai Beach. Here we spent a week, after which we returned to Seoul, having spent six weeks in what was supposed to be a dangerous trip among a hostile people. As I came to Peking Pass and saw "Old Glory" flying over the American Legation, the emotions of patriotism and the sense of security were such as thrill me as I think of it to this day.

The following February (1891), Mr. Gale and I walked to Eui Ju, passing through Pyenyang, and from Eui Ju on foot and by cart to Mukden, thence east to Tong Wha Syen, thence through the immense forests on the Yalu River, across that river into Korea again, way up beyond Kangkei. We were on our way to Paik Too San but the spring thaws made the roads impassable and we came down through Chang Chin to Hamheunt and Wonsan and thence up to Seoul through Kangwun Province. For two weeks we lived on millet and dandelion soup with but two eggs and two small fishes and we were glad to get out of "starvation camp" into the fertile rice-fields around Hamheung. I had now explored my parish, visited the only two groups of Christians outside of Seoul (for in Eui Ju there was a small group which had been baptized by the Scotch Presbyterian missionaries living in Newchwang and Mukden), and had learned how difficult it was to discover the Korean Christians in the Manchurian valleys. I had also learned a few sentences in Chinese which stood me in good stead when the Chinese troops occupied Pyenyang in 1894, and this three months' trip had furnished experience and information which has had its bearings upon the work in Pyenyang through the thirty-four years which have followed.

Best of all, we had interested a young man in Eui Ju whom we met on the hillside back of the city. The next year when I visited Eui Ju this young man was ready for baptism and later on he became my assistant in opening Pyenyang and establishing the church there. This was Han Syuk Chin, one of the first seven men ordained to the ministry and for eighteen years a pastor, now in the large church in Sin Eui Ju.

Dr. Hugh Brown went with me on the fall trip in 1891, when we bought property in Eui Ju, and in 1892 I made three trips to Pyenyang and Eui Ju, the summer trip in company with Dr.

Vinton, spending a month in Eui Ju. In Pyongyang in 1891 I had received four catechumens in the city and seven in villages outside and by the spring of 1892, having decided that Pyongyang rather than Eui Ju was the strategic point for a station, I had Mr. Han spend a few months with me in study in Seoul and then located him in Pyongyang in the summer of 1892. The fall of 1892 brought to Korea the Rev. Graham Lee, who was at once appointed with me to open the station in Pyongyang. No man was ever more blessed than I in his colleague in missionary service and no field ever had a better missionary than Pyongyang had in Graham Lee.

In February 1893 we selected the site for our station and had Mr. Han buy a small tile house and an adjoining field, located where our Women's Bible Institute now is, and at the same time Lee, W.J. Hall of the Methodist Mission bought, through their helper, a piece of property inside the West Gate. Then there was a *Yadan* [야단 "trouble"] and the city officials forced Mr. Han to return the property which he did, only to buy shortly afterwards a large house inside the East Gate.

It was at this time that Lee and I were stoned by yamen (police) runners as we walked down the West Gate Street past the official buildings. A stone as large as one's fist went whizzing past my ear but providentially did not come nearer. In later years one of the police who threw the stones became one of the first seven ordained ministers and the first missionary of the Korean Church to Quelpart. It was at this time also that the magistrate ordered the people to drive us out, threatening to execute the elders of the ward in which we were unless this were done. The mob gathered - two or three hundred men in number - with angry shouting and threatening gestures. We looked out and saw the courtyard full of men and Lee reached for his shotgun, not understanding what was said nor what might happen. I stepped out into the courtyard and, addressing the crowd, asked what was wanted. Informed they had been ordered to drive us out, I invited the three spokesmen, "the elders," to come in and talk it over. They then explained that their lives were in danger unless we left, and after understanding the situation, we told them that, while we had a perfect right to stay, yet as we were here as friends of the people and wanted no harm to come to them, we would leave the next day for their sakes and would come back later.

That won their friendship and the mob dispersed after hearing an explanation of the Gospel. The next day I saw the magistrate who, of course, denied having made such threats and we started for Eui Ju a few days earlier than we had planned.

We were gone but a day when Lee was taken sick with dysentery, so we hastened back to Pyongyang, secured a chair and coolies and started across country to Wonsan on the east coast where Mr. and Mrs. Gale had located. That was an anxious time. Lee lived on canned milk and rice water and we made as fast time as coolies and ponies could make and it was certainly a relief when we reached the Gale house where Lee could be well cared for. He stayed there to recuperate while I took the pony express to Seoul. In those days we traveled on our packs 80 li per day (about 26 miles) on a slow jog, the Korean food of the inns being supplemented by the canned goods we could take along. An extra pony or two were necessary for our "cash" when going on a journey for more than a month, until we discovered that we could buy silver *sycee*

[silver ingots of different shapes and weights] from Tang Shao Yee, (now China's great statesman, but then secretary to Yuan Shi Kai, Chinese Resident in Seoul), which were easily exchanged for "cash" in Pyengyang or Eui Ju.

By the fall of 1893 all was ready for the permanent occupation of Pyengyang as a new station, so I moved there, taking up quarters in the house near the East Gate, next door to a Korean scholar who, when sober, was friendly enough but when drunk was infuriated against the "foreign-devil" and one day made a visit with hatchet in hand, breaking down the door and ready to break my head also, had he not been seized by my helper and cook.

In October I organized a class of 22 catechumens and placed them under systematic instruction. Among them was a man who received a Chinese New Testament from Mr. Thomas, the colporteur of the Scottish Bible Society who was killed and burned with the crew of the *General Sherman* in 1866. Another was a man from Syenchun and another from Anak in Whanghai Province and still another, one of the most interesting characters, an inn-keeper who, for a year or more, had given out tracts and sold books at his inn, had given up drinking and gambling and was an outstanding evidence of the power of the Gospel. Through thirty years he has been a great helper in all business and building operations.

Daily the visitors came, daily tracts were distributed and the Gospel preached to people in city and suburbs while every night Bible study, prayer meetings and catechumen classes were held.

On the 8th of January, 1894, seven men were baptized and the Lord's Supper celebrated. Three of these seven are dead, having continued in the faith, one of them having been the first "youngsoo" or leader in Pyengyang. He died of cholera after having preached the Gospel in Anak, Chairyung and the adjacent territory. Two of the seven are still in active service, one an elder and one in America. Two have maintained an intermittent touch with the church but have been active as Christians.

The first believer in the city was not of the seven. He was the young man who hearing the statement, "This book is the Word of God," asked rather cynically, "How do you know it is?" and receiving the reply, "Read it and see," secured a copy and spent his evenings reading it while he came each day and stood outside the missionary's window, morning and afternoon, listening to what was said to the many visitors who came. He was convinced, believed secretly, came to meetings and nearly a year later made confession of his faith, and was baptized. He became the first evangelist in the hospital established by Dr. Wells, was the first ordained elder and the first candidate for the ministry. For years he has been a pastor.

Another who was not of the seven but attended these first meetings was a boy of sixteen who took tracts to his mother, she becoming the first woman believer in the city. She used to come to the kitchen and peep through the cracks of the door into the room where the men were being taught. The son is an elder, and she for twenty-five years has been president of the Women's Missionary Society.

The first services for women were held in a two-kan (8'X16') room with the partition nearly closed. There was no light in the part where the women sat, but the light of the bean oil lamp shone upon the face of the preacher so he could be seen, though he could not see his audience except when the old women in the front row leaned forward out of curiosity.

Two months after the first baptisms we established a school for the children of the Christians, the first boys' school, from which has developed all of our numerous schools enrolling thousands of pupils. After considerable persuasion, the teacher, a classical scholar was induced to teach Eunmoon (the native script) [now called Hangul] as well as Chinese and the parents induced to subscribe for the expenses.

I do not remember the day nor whether shortly before or shortly after the first baptisms when the first church offering was taken, but I distinctly remember that it amounted to 13 "cash", the equivalent of 1¼ cents, its importance in relation to the policy of self-support being out of all proportion to the amount given. It has a definite relation to the gift of over yen 100,000 (\$50,000) given a year ago by one man for establishing a Christian Kindergarten in Pyenyang.

Thus some seven months' residence in Pyenyang saw the station and its work well under way and ready to welcome Mrs. Lee, for Mr. Lee had gone to America for his bride and they were due to arrive in Chemulpo in May. I left for Seoul to meet them and well do I remember the first sailor hat I ever had seen when Mrs. Lee was coming ashore in the sampan from the steamer in Chemulpo harbor. That meant great things for the women in Pyenyang.

When I was in Seoul about the seventh of May, Dr. and Mrs. Hall of the Methodist Mission, with their baby, moved with their household goods to Pyenyang to establish their residence there in the house previously purchased by Dr. Hall. The second night after their arrival, began the ever memorable persecution, the imprisonment of Christians and the endangering of the lives of the missionaries. Word reached Seoul and after a gathering of the missionaries there in prayer, Mr. McKenzie and I started overland in haste from Pyenyang to do what might be done. How disappointed Lee was that the American and British Legations would not consent to allow a married man to go, as they thought that whoever went was endangering his life.

However, the story of the persecution, the release of the Christians, the safety of the Halls and their return to Seoul, Mr. McKenzie's trip to Sorai and my summer in Pyenyang in contact with the Chinese army which occupied the city, and then with the Japanese troops, is too long a one to be included in this article. The story of that would also tell of the battle, the scattering, the return of Mr. Lee, Dr. Hall and myself to the city after the battle and of the sad sequel of Dr. Hall's death from typhus contracted on the transport from Chinnampo. Possibly I may write that story at another time.

Santa Barbara, California

March 17, 1925

Susann Waugh Moffett Moffat

Dear Timothy, [this is a pet name for her brother, Tom]

It is impossible to write short letters to you for I always have so much of importance to write. First of all I want to thank you for the fine photographs. They are both fine but Will [her son] and I agreed on the keen, distinguished one in gray as the most characteristic likeness. Did you mean for Will to keep one or to whom shall I give the other?

I have about decided to go home for the summer to collect my belongings and have thin crates made to ship at any time after the 22nd of May. The round trip fare will be less than \$90⁰⁰ which will cost less than for Lenore and me to stay here. I have made an offer on a lot next to El Encanto above the lot you and I looked at last summer. It is most desirable and was listed at the low price of \$2000. If I cannot get this lot I may be able to get another one on the El Encanto ground.

Just as soon as I can get a lot I shall plan a home, get bids on it and be ready to build at once when I return next August. Will [son] and Lenore [daughter] are as happy and eager as I am in the thought of having a home once more.

Would you like me to have your big bed and other furniture shipped out here with mine? If so I shall plan at least one ceiling high enough to accommodate your bed and you can occupy the room whenever you come to Santa Barbara until you have a home of your own in which to put your ancestral furniture.

My idea is to build a home to live in until we can sell it at four or five thousand dollars profit and then build another for ourselves. I do hope you will come out next August for I am sure you & I together could make one or two thousand a year in a perfectly safe way when I am here permanently to look after our property. If I do not succeed in selling our home on Cleveland Ave. before I have to leave I shall see what can be done about renting it advantageously without furnishing it. Miss Ebbetts of the State College is interested and will talk things over with me on her return from San Francisco the latter part of the week.

After finally succeeding in squelching your friend Dr. Skyland in his plan to have Will enlist in the Navy as physician he turned his attention to "my brother, Dr. Moffett of New York" and was quite as determined to send you as Navy chaplain. This I treated as such a huge joke that he reluctantly gave that cherished plan up only to turn with greater persistence to the plan of having you build on your lot, clear \$5000 (easily) on the entire property and take the money to tour Europe with your sister. If he has suggested this plan once he has laid it before me a dozen times, exactly as tho it had just occurred to him. He is just about as looney as you find them outside of an asylum for the insane and is an insufferable bore.

Did I tell you that my talk on the Indians was most flatteringly received as "unusual" as "artistic" and as "having atmosphere", all of which was very gratifying for I had given a good deal of thought and prayer to it and was scared stiff and didn't get over my stage fright as I

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usually do after the first few sentences. For several weeks I had been in a very nervous condition without any apparent cause except that I had overtaxed my strength on several occasions. I am all right again and have engaged Sarah to come during Elizabeth's [her brother Howard's daughter] Spring vacation. She is bringing one of her room mates home with her for a five days visit. Elizabeth will be home for ten days after which Howdy leaves and I go back to Miss Lamson's until Lenore is out of school early in May - about the 10th, I think.

Rob [another brother] and family plan to leave about the 20th. A letter from Nellie [Rob's wife] the other day reported the boys perfectly well - had not missed a day at school and each had taken a prize for the best composition in his room. Rob had his teeth x-rayed and it was found that six were badly ulcerated. He had four extracted and already is feeling better - will wait until he gets home to have the other two removed.

Will has had another offer by a physician who has a larger practice, largely in Montecito. I am not at liberty to tell more about it but he is considering it. Dr. Ullman left for New York for an absence of three or four weeks so nothing can be decided until his return.

I was very much interested in Dr. Eastman's article. He is a clever writer and his article has the ring of sincerity and I heartily agree with almost everything he says, but it is a little too much like airing his personal grievances to be in the best of taste.

Have you heard of the honor that was conferred on Sam [her brother Samuel Austin Moffett] on "Empire Day"? Lest you have not, briefly it was this. At an elaborate celebration of "Empire Day" the Governor General recognized about 20 men for distinguished service and among them were two "venerable American gentlemen" of whom Sam was one, honored for distinguished service in the cause of Education. After an elaborate and impressive ceremony he was presented with a silver vase with many inscriptions acknowledging his great service.

Good bye and love before I start on another sheet.

Susie

(from the Samuel H. Moffett collection of Samuel A. Moffett papers - this one received from Alice Louise Moffett Starkey, daughter of Charles Hull Moffett)

Office of the President
Pyongyang, Korea

THE UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Cooperating Missions: -

Northern Presbyterian
Southern Presbyterian
Australian Presbyterian
Canadian Presbyterian

Pyongyang, Korea

April 30, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Jamie:

You are daily in my thoughts and prayers and I do so want to know more about you. I recognize the fact that you have been going through trying times and that you have not yet quite got hold of yourself. Am hoping however that things are more hopeful and satisfactory by this time and that you will find it easier and easier to hold yourself to faithful work. You have, I know, been discouraged at times because you have allowed yourself to become careless and indifferent about your work but you can overcome that and yet get the victory over your own tendency to dilly dally over the things you have to do. Let me hear some real good news from you soon and tell me lots more about yourself and your doings. If you can do so - run down from Wooster to Columbus during the General Assembly - staying over one Sunday and see Dr. Blair and other Koreans in attendance. It will do you good.

I of course was tremendously interested in your swimming victories and all your accounts of the contests. So were Charles & the boys.

Our chief interests at home have been Tommy, the mumps (Sam) and the pigeons. Charles has had 8 of them and now 2 sets of squabs with more coming! The first set are just beginning to fly and create much interest. He has three boxes under the eaves in the court between your room and the kitchen. The yard is getting beautiful. Apricot & cherry blossoms coming out and the peas are up. Your tree peony is now a big shrub and will be beautiful.

The new Foreign School building is going up rapidly - first story all laid. It is immediately west of the old building - the compound taking in all of the lower Reiner yard up to the Baird compound line. The old building will come out and that site will be the front yard of the new building. [It is] brick two-story with an attic. You would hardly know the compound - except our own which changes little.

Charles has passage (he & Beekie [Charles Bernheisel] together) on steamer leaving Kobe July 3rd for Seattle. [He] goes with the Hamiltons. We'll have him go to Madison and hope he meets you there. He has improved wonderfully the last 6 months. He is doing better in every way and seems to have found himself. He is now a First Class Scout and is working for a number of extra merits. He has straightened up and is just about as tall as I am - an even 6 feet, I think. While not doing real well, is much better in his studies and I feel encouraged. I do hope he does well at Mercersburg.

Your Uncle Azel writes of inviting you to make them a visit in Tennessee. Should like to have you [go] and if you go look into the college there and let me know what you think of it as a place for Charles instead of Wooster. I think you'd better stick to Wooster - and make good

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there. Do not let their liberal teaching with all its shallowness upset you. The things that have always been true and that have stood the test for centuries will remain after all the theories and guesses of so-called scholars have gone into the bottomless pit.

I do want, however, that you be faithful in the use of the means of grace - prayer, reading of God's Word and attendance upon services. Do not neglect these whatever comes.

[I] have to go to chapel just now. Will finish after that.

May 1st: Did not get a chance to add to this yesterday. Just one more thing to mention and I will mail this.

Next February you become 21 and therefore of age and my Guardianship will cease and according to law you then become the manager of your own affairs. The responsibility for all decisions will then rest upon you. In financial matters I doubt not you will be largely guided by Uncle Howard and will want to leave your investments in his hands - you drawing from him the interest as needed. I shall have to turn over to you all the bonds, etc. which as Guardian I have held for you and upon which I have made report to the Court in San Rafael each year. I shall have to have a receipt from you which I will turn in to the Court when I make my final report. That will be in March of next year. I will have Uncle Howard make out a list of the Bonds, etc. and draw up a receipt which you can sign on March 1st next. You will not need to do other than sign that receipt and simply ask Uncle Howard to continue to look after your investments. Now he does it at my request. Then it will be at your request. Now he turns over the income to me. Then he will turn it over to you. There will be no need to take the Bonds from the bank. When you are in Madison you can have Uncle Howard show them to you if you wish just in order to visibly see that they are there.

I will write you more about this later. This is just to let you know in advance of the settlement to be made then.

Must close at once.

Lots of love,

Father

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyongyang, Korea

May 12, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Jamie:

We are having our beautiful May weather with the yard full of blossoms and all the community coming in now and then to enjoy the beauties of the place. The pear tree was great this year and the oak still holds first place in beauty and glory. The magpies still have their nest and in a few days the little birds will probably appear.

However, pigeons have taken the place of interest in the household and all enjoy watching them. The first pair of squabs have grown to full sized pigeons and are flying around as the older ones. Two more couples of little ones are growing and other eggs are in the nest. Charles has watched over them very regularly and enjoyed them greatly.

[In] another week we will celebrate Tommy's birthday and it looks as though he might be walking then. He is making great efforts these days and is growing in strength of his legs.

Howard has just come down with the mumps. Sam was out only about two days when Howard began to swell up. So it has gone in the community one or two at a time - covering several months.

The new Foreign School Building is up to 2nd story. It will be a fine building. We have a fine new tennis court in front of the Lee house (now the Winn place) and the community is going in for tennis teas and tournaments. [I] played my first games last week. Have not played for years. Hope you teach Charles some this summer. He enjoys it but is not very steady in play.

Tea on our lawn yesterday for the Ministers' Association - tomorrow for the Japanese ladies and next week for the Governor.

Mrs. Swallen left for America last week to spend summer with her daughters. She may visit Wooster. If so, hope you see her.

We are eager to hear from you and to know your plan for the summer. Charles will sail from Kobe on July 3rd for Seattle.

Love from all of us -

As ever, Lovingly
Father

New stamps are beautiful - celebrate 25th wedding anniversary of the Emperor. Keep all that come. They will be wanted a few years hence.

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyeng Yang, Korea

May 26, 1925

Samuel Austin Moffett

Dear Jamie:

Just a few words so as to keep in touch with you. Hope to get off on this mail two photos which you will enjoy seeing - one of the family and one of the pear tree.

The yard is beautiful just now and how I would enjoy "walking around the yard" with you once more. [We] were to have had a lawn party here this afternoon, the Governor and other officials invited but a heavy rain this morning will drive us into the Reiner house. You will be glad to know that at last we have secured government recognition for the College as a "Special School" which gives us standing. [We] expect it for [the] Academy also in a few days & then we shall have won our 12 year contest for the Bible in the curriculum - with concrete application to our own schools here. I never fought so hard & so long continued a struggle against so many odds. But it is great to have won out. Now if only I can get better financial support for Academy & College I shall feel that my work for them is finished.

Charles is getting ready to get off to America [the] last of next month. [I] wonder if he will not reach Chicago just at [the] time you will finish Summer School so as to join him there and go on to Madison together!! Be sure to have a letter at the steamer in Seattle when he lands there telling him of your whereabouts & movements. He is to sail from Japan on the [the name of the ship left blank] July 3rd and should reach Seattle about July [?]. Now, do not postpone writing him until too late. There has been another big earthquake in Japan -- 2000 reported killed - but as yet we have few details. This time it is between Osaka & Kyoto.

Charles has been greatly interested in the P.Y.F.S. [Pyengyang Foreign School] Annual which he has been helping to get up. Will send you a copy.

All well here, although for a while several of us had diarrhoea and Howard had the mumps. Keep a look out for Mrs. Swallen - also for Dr. Blair. [I] wonder if you are at General Assembly this ? next week at Columbus [Ohio]. You will see several from Korea there.

Glad to get your last letter. Keep on praying and striving and get real hold of yourself. The Lord will certainly help you if only you seek His help. Hope to hear soon again. Lots of love from all of us and

Save the stamps

Father

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyeng Yang, Korea

June 9, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Jamie:

Wish you were with us to enjoy all the events of Commencement week and various functions of the Station. Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls - music recitals - Commencement exercises with first graduate from High School (Sarah Timmons of Chun Ju), May pole dance on Miss Best's lawn - Reception to Governor and others at Reiners - and all the many lawn parties, etc., etc. - which enter into the Station life.

I begin to realize that Charles will soon leave us - We celebrate his 17th birthday this week on our lawn and on 29th he leaves us. He goes on the President McKinley from Kobe July 3rd and should reach Seattle by the 12th or 15th. Be sure to have a letter there for him not later than the 10th. Direct it to him at Seattle - Dollar Line Steamers - Passenger on Pres. McKinley from Kobe!! If you can arrange to meet him in Chicago, do so.

I count on you helping Charles a great deal. Remember how you appreciated my being with you at Mt. Hermon - our trip to Boston, etc. and be sure Charles will need you his first months & year in America.

Now to be really helpful - you need to brace up yourself and do better work and keep yourself more in hand and under control. Pray earnestly and strive for this - for now is the time for you to accomplish it. It will grow increasingly more difficult the longer neglected.

Am hoping to hear soon from you and know your plans for summer.

Annual meeting is here 22nd of this month and we are busy, indeed. We have just repapered the front & dining room and re-arranged furniture - the first time in 15 years and we look like a new house. We have lighter paper and the rooms are more cheerful.

Tommy is a great boy - looks for his father as you all did and loves to "walk around the yard". How I wish you could see him.

I had an idea as I wrote you that possibly you might come out and teach in P.Y.F.S. after finishing college and then have a year with us. Two things will prevent that as I see it now. You have not kept yourself up to good enough work to warrant expectation that you could handle it satisfactorily - although I hope the next two years may remove that fear and show that you are doing good work. The record is that the school is rather looking for a man of some experience who can become Principal and teacher. If you think you would like to come - possibly we can get you for an English teacher in College or Academy for a year. What would you think of that?

We celebrated Government Recognition of the College yesterday - it becomes a "Special School" - a *Chun Moon Hak Kyo* in Korean - but remains the *Union Christian College* in its English name.

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The Mowrys and Hamiltons go on furlough this month. Mowry will be in Ohio or Pittsburgh and Hamilton in Pittsburgh. Hope you may see them. They are both Wooster men and will probably be there sometime.

Must go to dinner now - so only this much at present. Be sure to keep all the stamps and when you have a good supply of any one kind send us back at least four of each kind - for Sam, Howard, Tommy & myself.

Lots of love from all of us -

Lovingly,
Father

I want more letters or even postals. Why not send a postal every Sunday?

THE UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
PYENGYANG, KOREA

Office of the President

Rev. Norman C. Whittemore
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Pyongyang, Korea

June 15, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Mr. Whittemore:

As you would readily surmise we have all been delighted to know that you are acting as Secretary of the Board in the absence of Dr. Brown. I am sure you will enjoy it and that you will do much good. Doubtless also you will have some suggestions for us all when you return to Korea.

I am exceedingly busy and can take time now for but a few words in acknowledgment of your letter of May 20th and in order to present to you the fact that the Board of Directors of the College and the Mission have united in a request that Dr. W.N. Blair's furlough be extended in order that he may seek to raise funds for the College and especially for the finishing of the new Science Hall (now under construction as far as the first story & basement). \$5000** is desperately needed at once while \$25000** is the entire sum now needed.

The Mission also wants him to have permission to raise funds for the eight academies and the P.Y. [Pyeng Yang] hospital building. We all hope and believe permission will be granted and that he will succeed. In our Secondary Educational Program we presented the urgent need of the Academies which you thoroughly appreciate. We have been overwhelmed with congratulations upon receiving recognition of the College as a "Chun Moon Hak Kyo" - official notice of which came to us May 27th. We are assured the Academy is all right also and will receive recognition as soon as they settle certain ambiguities in their own rules. It has been a long struggle over negotiations but it means much to reach the end. Of course this but accentuates the importance of the increase in appropriations asked for - in order to maintain our status. What a volume of work there is on this Mission field!!

Kindest greetings to you & Mrs. W. and "Neddie"

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Moffett

(from the microfilm archives of the Board of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Series II, Reel #5, Record Group 140-3-31)

Pyongyang, Korea

June 15, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Rev. Norman C. Whittemore
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Dear Mr. Whittemore:

As you would readily surmise we have all been delighted to know that you are acting as Secretary of the Board in the absence of Dr. Brown. I am sure you will enjoy it and that you will do much good. Doubtless also you will have some suggestions for us all when you return to Korea.

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Kindest greetings to you & Mrs. W. and "Neddie"

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Moffett

(reproduction from original in the collections of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia)
(this photo copy among the papers of the Samuel H. Moffett collection of S.A. Moffett papers)

New York, New York
The Rev. Samuel A. Moffett, D.D.
Heijo, Chosen, Japan

July 7, 1925

Norman C. Whittemore

My dear Moffett:

I was very glad to get your letter of June 15 and to learn officially that the College had been given "Designation". This is the first word that we have had of it, although the last word received through Blair was that it would probably be received at any time within a few weeks. I most certainly want to congratulate you and the rest of the faculty who have worked so hard to make this possible. I will be very glad to make the announcement of this at the Council meeting tomorrow, and to the Board at its meeting the middle of this month.

As you will have learned from the cable which we sent in your care for Dr. McAfee, Will Blair has been very successful, considering the short time he has been at it, in raising the money for the Science Hall, and I know how you will appreciate the relief as you have been personally carrying the building operations. How much more he will be able to do during the summer months, when so many churches and people of means are not functioning benevolently, I do not know, but I certainly hope that he will secure some more funds so that the work may go on to completion.

The raising of money in America, especially since the War [World War I], has become much more difficult and more of a science than ever before. Many fear that when the surtax on large incomes is reduced the giving by some people is likely to fall off. As it is at present, for the people of very large means, half the amount is practically paid by Uncle Sam, for if they do not give the money away, Uncle Sam takes it in the form of the surtax up to about 50%.

We have just sent another cable to you for Henry Welbon [should be Arthur G. Welbon], but I am in some doubt as to whether it will be received before Mr. Welbon sails from Japan, or even if it is, whether he will change his plans. I do not know much about this disease which Mrs. Welbon has had, but I am told that it is likely to have permanent effects. In cabling I have refrained entirely from indicating any opinion of my own, merely giving the information we have received from Kentucky in the nearest words possible when using the code.

I hope that you have had a very successful Annual Meeting and that all in Pyongyang are well. I trust that you will take a good long vacation this summer and get a good rest. I do not get my vacation until after the middle of September, when we hope to get in a week or ten days motoring trip to New England before Ned has to return to Hotchkiss for the fall term. Mrs. Whittemore and Ned are up in northwestern Connecticut with Mrs. Whittemore's sister and I go up for the week-ends, but only have a little over twenty-four hours with them as it is over three hours' ride on the train.

Yours very sincerely,
Acting Secretary,
Norman C. Whittemore

(from the microfilm archives of the Board of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Series II, Reel #5, Record Group 140-3-31)

Up the Taitong River

August 4, 1925

Lucia Hester Fish Moffett

Dear Hester [her Uncle Henry's daughter]:

A letter from Howard Moffett gives us some idea of the disaster in Santa Barbara. He was at the Upham and unharmed. Then he went to find Elizabeth [his daughter] who was taking care of Nancy [her sister Carrie's daughter]. They too were all right so he hurried on to the Cottage Hospital. There Carrie was sitting on the lawn in a wheel chair so all was well with that branch of the family. What we are anxious about now is the welfare of the Carpinteria branch. Accounts sound as if a two-story building, even tho of wood, might have provided some experiences. I certainly hope they were brief and easy on the pocket book as well as the nerves.

Korea has had another flood, this time of the Han River in the Seoul district. So far, the Taitong has behaved beautifully. Both boys [Sam and Howard] swam across this morning. We did not expect them to be able to do it for two or three years yet but even seven year old Howard made it easily. Yesterday we saw a boat loaded with slate go to pieces and sink in the rapids a short way above here. The two men were both saved but we did not go on up for fear of striking the submerged stuff in coming down. There are too many children on board to run risks.

Here there is a beautiful spring - water falling from the rocks with a sand bank and excellent swimming place directly opposite. Mud, sand and water to play in - rocks to climb on - an American row boat to row - a little Korean boat to skull - four playmates on the Phillips houseboat, shade always obtainable by moving the boat a bit, etc., etc. It is an ideal vacation for the children. As for us, we rest - rest - rest, play katina (?) with each other, or rook with the Phillipses and are as happy as the children.

The spring is a good-sized water fall this morning after a hard rain last night.

Tommie! The burning question once more is the color of his hair. In the water it is bright red. In the shade it is white - real gold, of course, where the sun touches it. He is 14½ months, walks all the time - sand or rocks no obstacle. He tumbles & picks himself up. He loves the water & marches straight for it - lets his father duck him with only some grimaces, not a holler, etc. When I do something he doesn't like he calls papapapa, etc.

Why don't I write? The woman supposed to take care of him has heart trouble & is the only support of a big family. We must let her rest - besides he needs his mother almost every minute - climbed up by himself onto a big suitcase by the side of the boat yesterday - not one lying flat either. S. & H. are learning the catechism & their father illustrates the meaning of original sin to them by our angel baby. I was some mad, I want you to know.

Lots of love to all of you,

Lucia

Excuse said angel baby's [ink] marks on this letter.

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyongyang, Korea

August 28, 1925

Samuel A. Moffett

Rev. N.C. Whittemore
Acting Secretary,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Dear Mr. Whittemore:

Your several cablegrams concerning Mrs. Welbon's sickness and death were duly received and all but the last were immediately given to Mr. Welbon. The last one came in my absence and was received by Dr. Baird. There was delay in finding a code book and in locating Mr. Welbon but by telegrams to Syenchun, Andong, Wonsan Beach, and then to Kobe I understand the message reached him at Kobe where he was on his way to America. His loss is too great to express in words and our only recourse is to trust in the God of all comfort to comfort and sustain him and his children.

Your cablegrams about funds for the Science Hall were also duly received and you know well that they brought great joy and a sense of relief. We are grateful indeed and hope Dr. Blair will be able to secure the full amount needed for the completion of the building.

With government recognition we are of course in far better shape to carry on to advantage and now we are hoping that the First Church of Pittsburgh will increase its contributions for the Annual Budget to \$5000 so that our constant struggle for enough to meet the bare necessities may be relieved. I am more and more convinced that the College must continue if we are to have a source for an education ministry for the Korean Church and for that reason I continue as President and reluctantly carry these heavy burdens until we can find someone to take my place.

At the Annual Meeting of the Mission the great question before us was that of financial provision for our Eight Academies, that we might continue them and place them in position to secure recognition. We are profoundly grateful that Dr. McAfee saw so clearly the importance of keeping all of our Academies, and so grateful that the Board is willing to waive its expressed doubts on that subject and to co-operate with us in an effort to secure support for them. It may take us a few years to succeed but eventually we shall reach our goal and in doing so will do a great service to the Church in Korea.

The Educational Committee wished me to write you a few paragraphs concerning the question raised in a former letter from the Board as to our reasons for believing that it is neither desirable nor practicable to attempt a merger of the Pyongyang Academy and the one established by the Koreans in the city. Dr. McAfee saw the situation as it appears to us and in summing up his impressions clearly stated the impracticability of it. We need our Mission Academies for a good many years to come if we are to maintain the spiritual and religious purposes of the schools as dominant factors in the education of our Christian boys and girls - for it is patent to us on the field that political ideas bulk largely in the minds of the Koreans in the schools which they have been and are establishing independent of Mission support or control.

The school here very nearly gave up its distinctive Christian character in its eagerness to secure a Government charter and the element in the church which lays the emphasis upon the secular and political purposes rather than the spiritual and religious always exercises a strong influence in the conduct of the school and to a large extent determines its character. Did we attempt a merger there

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would be constant friction and trouble concerning the management, the character of the teachers and the purpose of the school, while if both are maintained the very fact that we maintain high standards becomes the greatest factor or influence towards maintaining the Christian character of that school.

As you know so well, the Osan school in the Syenchun Station territory started as a distinctively Christian one in its management, character and ideas but it has long since come under the domination of the secular and political element. What a mistake we should have made had we united the Syenchun Academy and that school!!

So too, the independent school in Taiku and the Po Sung school in Seoul are in alliance with unbelievers and have not maintained a Christian character or purpose.

Then, too, as we have often represented, there is need for many more than our Mission Academies in order to meet the needs of the Christian constituency and there is an urgent need for the Mission Academy with its special emphasis upon the spiritual character. Other academies will inevitably appeal to the people who place secular success in the foreground and while we shall do all possible to keep those schools thoroughly Christian some of them will draw the interest of those who if associated with us in the support and control of our academy would be a source of friction and internal dissension.

As you know it is difficult to explain all the subtle influences which create the "atmosphere" of the situation with which we deal but they very largely constitute the factors which form our convictions that it is not desirable to propose or attempt a union of the academies.

It is in our Mission Academies that we shall train the men and women who will stand true and unshaken in the midst of the ferment of Bolshevistic and Socialistic and political propaganda which is so largely occupying the thought of the young people of the Far East. Our Mission academies are a steadying factor in the life of the Church in the crises through which it is going and which rapidly succeed one another in this changing Far East.

We rejoice in the willingness of the Board to further the campaign for the support of these schools and to help us work through this difficult period. I anticipate about two years of difficulties after which I believe we shall be rowing in more peaceful waters.

Your letters dealing with other questions I will take up separately in a day or so.

With every wish for the good health of Mrs. Whittemore and yourself

Sincerely yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

You will rejoice to know that Pastor Kim Suk-Chang has been released from prison.

(reproduction from original in the collections of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia)
(this photo copy among the papers of the Samuel H. Moffett collection of S.A. Moffett papers)

New York, New York

October 20, 1925

Arthur Judson Brown

The Rev. Samuel A. Moffett, D.D.
Pyongyang, Chosen. (Korea)

Dear Dr. Moffett:

Your letter of August 28 to Mr. Whittemore arrived after he had left the office, but we showed it to him the next time he called. I read it with keen interest. The problems which the Mission is facing in connection with its educational work have a large place in my heart. I have devoted a good deal of time to them, and I am eager, as all of us in the Board are, to give all practicable cooperation with the Mission in trying to work them out to a satisfactory solution. You will note the Board's action taken at its meeting yesterday regarding academies. I hope that the conditions stated in that action will impress you and your associates as reasonable and indeed necessary. What else could the Board do?

You will also note the reference in the Board letter to the cable regarding Dr. William N. Blair's appeals for the College. The Board gladly authorized him to appeal for the full amount that the Mission asked for in its last property docket. I hope that our cable of October 5 reached the field without delay. That was fifteen days ago, but no reply has yet been received. We shall gladly take up the matter as soon as we have the response of the Mission's Executive Committee. We are trying to "play the game" with the Mission and be perfectly fair.

Our fall campaign is opening up in a vigorous way. The program calls for a tremendous amount of work among the home churches. It is too early yet of course to tell what the outcome may be, but everything that we can think of is being done to acquaint the churches with the literally vast need and opportunity on the foreign field.

I hope that you and Mrs. Moffett are well and that all goes prosperously with you in your own work. You state in your letter that "I continue as President reluctantly, carrying these heavy burdens until I can find some one to take my place". Do you hear anything on the field directly from Dr. McCune as to the possibility of his accepting the invitation which the Mission extended him a year ago to return and take the presidency of the College? I wrote to him as soon as I received the Mission's action, but he replied to the effect that the way was not clear to accept it. I may say to you confidentially that I have heard within the last few weeks that matters are not running smoothly at Huron College, and I wonder whether if the Mission still desires him to take the presidency of Pyongyang College he might make a different response if you were to press the matter upon him.

Please remember me warmly to Mrs. Moffett, and believe me

Affectionately yours,

Arthur Judson Brown

(from the microfilm archives of the Board of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Series II, Reel #5, Record Group 140-3-31)